

THE BURSTING OF A CLOUD OVER JONES' BROOK, IN MONTPELIER.

I have used the term, *bursting of a cloud*, as the caption of this article, because it is expressive of a popular notion, and not because it is either philosophical or correct. It has long been a prevalent belief, that in cases of extraordinary falls of water over particular localities, clouds, like old leather bottles, suddenly burst and let the water they contain fall to the earth almost in a body, like rivers falling over precipices in cataracts; whereas nothing could be less scientific or farther from the truth. No collected body of water, not even to the amount of a quart, could remain suspended in a cloud a single second, but would instantly fall to the earth from the force of the universal law of gravitation. The great deluging torrents of rain that occasionally occur simply proceed from unusual thickness, or upward extent of the cloud. This will be more readily understood, perhaps, when we consider, that if a cloud half a mile thick discharges from its gathering mists a heavy rain, one of mile thick would produce a rain doubly heavy, and so on, in the same proportion, with every additional thickness of cloud, till that thickness, as has been known sometimes to be the case, extends upwards to the distance of five or six miles, when from the whole mass the water reaches the earth less in the form of rain, indeed, than the pouring of a cataract.

The most remarkable instance of these great falls of water, which was ever known in this region, occurred about thirty years ago, near the sources of Jones' Brook, a small mill stream that rises in Montpelier mountains and empties into the Winooski river three miles below Montpelier. The mountains round the sources of this stream rise to the height of about two thousand feet with unusual abruptness, and, at the same time, so curve round as to leave the intermediate space in the form of a deep, half basin, down the precipitous sides of which a sudden shower descends almost as rapidly as water strolling down the steepest roof of a house, and collecting at the bottom pours in a raging river, down the valley to the outlet of the stream. It was over this mountain-rimmed basin that burst the extraordinary thunder storm which I have undertaken to describe, and which passed among the inhabitants under the name of the *bursting of a cloud*.

On the day and hour this storm occurred, I chanced to be on a high hill, east of Montpelier village, which afforded a plain view of the whole range of the Montpelier mountains. It was a still, sultry, mid-summer day, when my attention being attracted by the sudden obscuration of the sun, I looked toward the west, and saw the unusual spectacle of two heavy clouds rapidly rolling toward each other, in the line of the range just named, from diametrically opposite directions, the point where the collision must occur being evidently at the natural basin already particularized, or on the high mountain above it. These strangely moving clouds I watched with intense interest. On, they rolled toward each other, with their long, streaming columns and menacing fronts, like two opposing, hostile lines of cavalry rushing together for deadly conflict. As anticipated, the collision occurred directly over the basin and on the sides of the adjoining mountains, and there, the opposing currents being of equal strength, the intermingling clouds came to a dead stand. Presently, however, the colliding masses began to rise upward and double over till they had swelled into a huge, dome-like figure, shooting up miles into the darkened heavens, and here commenced a startling display of the electric phenomenon. With the short, sharp and quickly repeating peals of thunder, the fierce streams of lightning were seen bursting in rapid succession from every part of the surcharged cloud, like some hotly worked battery of artillery from a smoke enveloped field of battle. But soon the expanding cloud shut out the basin and valley from the sight; and being unable to see more, I returned home, and, with much interest, waited to hear the result of the fearful elemental exhibition I had been witnessing.

The news of the remarkable, and in one instance, fatal effects of that storm, in the disastrous flooding of Jones' Brook, at length reached us. The inhabitants of the basin, when the storm burst upon them so suddenly and unexpectedly, were struck with astonishment and alarm at the unaccountable quantities of water that descended upon them from the seemingly flooded heavens. A settler who lived nearest the foot of the mountain described the rain as "coming down in bucketsful." "Why," said he, "it seemed to come bodily like water from a full, overturned washtub. I was in a field at short distance from my house when it struck, and was so astonished at first that I knew not what to do. But the rain, if it could be called rain, coming thicker and faster, I ran with all my might for the house, but was almost drowned before I got there, and then it was only to find the water gushing into the house on all sides till it was nearly knee deep on the floor." And so with all the inhabitants of the basin. No place afforded them any protection; rivers were in all their houses within, and rivers, rising into seas, were all around them without; and they looked on mute with consternation at that tremendous outpouring of the clouds. But they were the first to be relieved. The rain, after the brief duration of half an

hour, ceased as suddenly as it came; and the inhabitants ran out of their houses just in time to behold the numerous uniting streams, that had come pouring down from the encircling mountain, gathering into a mighty river that swept away shanties, fences, old trees, logs, lumber and everything in its path, and bearing them in wild confusion on its surface, went foaming, tumbling and roaring, like a cataract, with amazing force, down the valley toward the outlet, five or four miles below.

But the principal scene arising from the destructive and fatal progress occurred at a saw-mill, owned by Mr. Oren Clark, and situated about a mile from the mouth of the stream.—When the storm was spending its force on the sides of the mountain and the basin beneath, Mr. Clark was at work in a field near the mill with his hired man, Ebenezer Eastman. And being apprised by the great volume and blackness of the clouds hanging over the mountain at the west, that an unusual shower was falling round the sources of the stream, they proceeded at once to the mill and commenced such temporary repairs of the dam and flume as would, they believed, secure them against the rush of water, which, in greater or less quantities, they knew would soon be down upon them. While deeply engrossed in hurrying forward the contemplated repairs, they were aroused by a deafening roar that burst suddenly upon their ears from the stream, but a short distance above the mill; when looking up, they beheld to their astonishment and alarm, a wild, tumultuous sea of commingling flood-wood and turbid waters, with a wall of fire front to feet high, tumbling and rolling down upon them with furious uproar, and with the speed of the wind. Knowing that the mill could not stand before such an avalanche of water, and beginning to be especially alarmed for their personal safety, they attempted to secure a retreat over the log-way which extended from the mill to the high grounds five or six rods distant. Over this they made their way with all possible speed. But such was the velocity of the on-rushing torrent that they had not proceeded half way before the mill building came down with a crash behind them, the log-way was swept from beneath their feet, and the next moment they were struggling for their lives in a flood a dozen feet deep, foaming, boiling, and so filled with trees, timber and all sorts of ruins, that it did not seem possible for a human being to be borne along in the frightfully whirling mass and live a single minute.

I saw "Eastman" once," said Mr. Clark in describing to me this, the most terrible scene of his life. "It was when I rose to the top of the first plunge. He was struggling desperately to get his head above the flood-wood. But I saw him no more; for the next moment, I was borne down beneath the surface by a rail of logs that swept over me. From that time I was whirled onward with my head some- times below, and sometimes above the water, till I found myself near the wooded bank on the opposite side of the stream, when I soon came within reach of a small tree, which I grasped and held on to, till I began to count myself saved. But the tree quickly came up by the roots and I was again plunged into the flood. But though now nearly in despair I struggled on, and soon was fortunate enough to grasp another sapling by the means of which I at length drew myself ashore and fell down half drowned and half dead from bruises and exhaustion. It was now nearly dark. After rallying my strength a little, I commenced crawling and stumbling through the tangled thickets along up the stream till, after a struggle of seeming hours, I at last reached a point opposite my house, where, by loud hailing, I rallied my family, who believed me lost, and informed them I would proceed on to the next house, on that side, stay all night. The next morning I reached home, where I was received as one risen from the dead.

The remains of Eastman were found the next day washed up near the mouth of the stream on the meadow of Samuel Jones, who was injured in the loss of crops, the covering of his hands by flood-wood and washing away the soil, to the amount of three hundred dollars. Whether Eastman was drowned, or killed by being crushed among the logs, was never known. Either cause was sufficient to have produced his death.

Such were the leading events attending the memorable thunder-storm on Jones Brook.

SELECTING A COW.—It is sometimes the case that the best judges will be deceived. A cow of very unpromising appearance, coarse in the neck, large boned and second or third rate milk marks generally, will now and then turn out to be first-rate; while another, with these marks largely developed, fine in the head and neck, and promising every way, will prove unsatisfactory. But a failure in this case is rare. Let the head be light, the forehead broad, the horn rather thin and clear, and prominent, the neck thin, and the quarters very light, the back straight, the hind-quarters well developed, wide over the loins, the carcass deep, the udder coming forward and well shaped, the skin soft to the touch, the teats well set, not too large nor too small, and the tail long and thin like a whip-lash.—Such a cow ought to be a good one.

Mr. Quip notices great mortality among the ladies—they are shuffling off their mortal coils, but they put them on the next morning.

NOTICE.

THE BRADFORD BANK WHOSE CHARTER terminated June 15, 1866, give notice that the outstanding bills of said bank will be redeemed by J. W. RATCHFELDER, at his office, and in his absence by HUBBARD WRIGHT, at his dwelling house, in Bradford, Vt., for one year from December 15, 1866, according to the following act:

An act in relation to the redemption of Bank Notes.
It is hereby enacted, &c.
Sec. 1. After the expiration of the charter of any bank chartered by this State, or after the termination of the existence of any such bank, agreeably to the laws of this State, such bank may cause notice to be published in all the weekly newspapers of the county where such bank is located, for one full year, setting forth that said bank will redeem its outstanding bills the day of the expiration of its charter, or the date of the termination of its existence, and a copy of this act. And upon the publication of such notice, neither such bank nor its officers shall be liable to any action for the non-redemption of any of its outstanding bills, unless the same shall have been duly presented, and payment thereof demanded within the year aforesaid at the banking house of said bank.

Sec. 2. After the expiration of the charter, or after the termination of the existence of any such bank, as aforesaid, such bank shall cease to be subject to the operation, or liable to the provisions of the sixty-third section of chapter eighty-ninth of the General Statutes.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Nov. 19, 1866.
J. W. RATCHFELDER, Clerk.
Bradford, Dec. 19, 1866.

A LITTLE MONEY WILL GO —A— GREAT WAYS!

Owing to ill health we are compelled to wind up our Store, in the Village of Bradford. Our Stock is complete, and adapted to the season.

DRY GOODS,
CLOTHING,
GROCERIES, &c. &c.

We shall, from date up to Jan. 1st, sell our entire Stock at the

LOWEST COST PRICE.

It is very seldom such a chance is offered this community.

AT BOSTON COST PRICES!

Hallett Brothers.

Bradford, Vt., Dec. 14, 1866.

NOTICE.

WM. G. HARDY, AM REGULARLY RECEIVING New Goods from the manufacturer, and will sell at a small advance from cost, with a substantial guarantee of specified quality, at

NO. 1 HARDY'S BUILDING.
Such as Clocks, Watches, Jewelry, Gold, Silver and Plated Wares in variety, for common and special uses, including choice articles for Birth and Holiday Presents, and for Silver, Gold, and Diamond Wedding, Silver Spoons of Sterling quality, Silver Plated Table and Pie Knives, Forks, Spoons, Ladles, Tea Sets, Castors, Cake and Card Baskets, Cups & Goblets, Toast Racks, Call Bells, &c., of the best quality, Table and Pocket Cutlery, Long and Short Sighted Spectacles & Nose Glasses, Parlor and Mag-nifying Glasses, Fine Silvered, Coffin Plates furnished and engraved to order. Scissors, Thermometers, Revolvers, Cartridges, and Water Proof Percussion Caps, and many useful Yankee Notions, too numerous to mention.

Clock and Watch work correctly done; also, Job work, including Surveying, and Musical Instruments, done with lasting utility. I am residing in the Watch Department by day, and in the branch, and will attend personally to the repair of all watches. He will give special attention to Chronometer, fine Duplex, and Lever Watches, and Double Time, and will adjust and regulate them to Standard Time, with great accuracy. In Chronometer vibrations, that such timekeepers may answer fully the purpose for which they were made, in whatever position they may be used. He will put into good Old English Levers new parts, giving them the quick and uniform beat of the American Watch, and will add the Chronometer Balance, well adjusted to temperature and position. Expense from \$15 to \$25, according to number of pieces, fineness of finish, and accuracy of adjustment.

Staff and Cylinder work, Pivoting and Jewelling to a limited amount, done for the Trade.

My thanks I hereby tender to a generous public for so liberal a patronage in the past, and I respectfully solicit a continuance of the same. All orders for goods or work, by express, stage, or otherwise, will receive prompt and careful attention.

Bradford, June 12, 1866.

A FULL STOCK OF TEAS, MOLASSES, & SYRUPS, SUGARS, COFFEES, TOBACCO, STICES, and

FANCY GROCERIES

of all kinds. Rice, Starch, &c. Also, Kerosene Oil and Fluid, Iron and Steel, Horse and Ox Shoes and Nails, Co. Nails, Salt, Potash and Soda, Fish, Pork, Corned, Grindstones and Fixtures, Hardware and Cutlery, Flour, and Country Produce, at prices as low as can be bought in the town or country.

FURNITURE.

A GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF NEW and Fashionable Furniture constantly on hand. Those wanting anything in the line are respectfully invited to call and examine.

COFFINS AND CASKETS.

Of various styles and prices, neatly trimmed to order on short notice. Also

Ready-Made Grave Cloths,

Coffin Trimmings, Plates, &c.

Also, agent for the sale of MASON & HAY-LIN'S CABINET ORGANS, and SMITH'S AMERICAN ORGANS.

Specimens on hand for examination.

First door South of Trotter House.

Bradford, June 19, 1866.

The C. O. D. System

TRIUMPHANT!

THE SUBSCRIBER WISHING TO RE-duce his large stock of goods, before the first of January next, offers great inducements to

Cash and Ready Buyers,

corresponding with the decline in the markets. All kinds of Dress Goods, Woolens, Clothing, Domestic, Groceries, and the stock generally, will be marked down to meet the returning tide of

LOW PRICES,

and in order to accomplish so desirable an end we shall adhere strictly to the

C. O. D. SYSTEM,

which is daily gaining favor with the people; as they see it the only way of escaping a share in the losses and vexations of the credit business. All goods being now sold in market for cash, the credit system being an exploded one, we shall continue to give to our customers and the public such

EXTRA INDUCEMENTS

in the way of small profits, which we think they will not fail to appreciate.

Grateful for past liberal patronage, we trust by strict attention to business, to continue to receive our share of the same.

All kinds of Produce, &c., received in exchange, for which the highest market prices will be paid.

GEO. PRICHARD, Agent.

Bradford Vt., Nov. 28, 1866.

Diseases of the Kidneys.

CALL AT PRICHARD'S, AND GET WARD'S KIDNEY COMPOUND, the

most valuable medicine for all diseases of the Kidneys. Don't forget. Warranted to give relief.

COFFINS & CASKETS.

WE WOULD RESPECTFULLY INFORM the public that we keep constantly on hand, for sale,

The Largest & Best Assortment of Coffins & Caskets

to be found in the county, which we are selling

Cheaper than at any other Establishment.

Also,

MANUFACTURERS OF ALL KINDS OF

BEDSTEADS,

which will be sold Wholesale and Retail at the lowest figures.

S. A. FISKE & SON.

Thetford Centre, Vt., July 5, 1866.

Cabinet Furniture,

consisting in part of

SOFAS, SECRETARIES, BUREAUS,

"Truth is Stranger than Fiction."

WM. G. HARDY, AM REGULARLY RECEIVING New Goods from the manufacturer, and will sell at a small advance from cost, with a substantial guarantee of specified quality, at

NO. 1 HARDY'S BUILDING.
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Cabinet Furniture,

consisting in part of

SOFAS, SECRETARIES, BUREAUS,

Something New!

DARLING & DIVOLL,
East Corinth,
HAVE JUST BOUGHT A LARGE AND complete stock of goods for cash, which we will sell low for cash or ready pay.

We respectfully invite all who are in need of Dry Goods, Groceries, Ready made Clothing, Hats, Caps, Boots & Shoes, Medicines, Paints and Oils, Furs, Fur-lined and Fur-bound Goods, Buffalo Robes, Bells, Hard Ware, Crockery, Rubber and Waxed Goods, to give us a Call before buying elsewhere.

LADIES! LADIES!!!

Our Stock of

Prints, Delaines, Alpacaes, Lyonsese, Thibets, Coburgs, Poplins, Dress & Milliner's Goods, of all kinds, Hats, Caps, Bonnets & Hoods,

is now full and complete, which we will sell at VERY LOW FIGURES.

We have in our empor, an experienced Milliner, and Dress Maker, who will always be happy to wait upon ladies who may favor us with their patronage.

Thanking the public for generous favors in the past, we hope that by strict attention to business and the low prices of our goods, to secure a liberal share of your custom in the future.

DARLING & DIVOLL,
East Corinth, Oct. 15, 1866.

To Farmers.

A FULL STOCK OF—

Scythes, Forks, Hay and Hand Rakes, Shovels, Hoes, Iron Bars, Wood Twine, Sheep Shears, Butter Tubs, and best Dairy Salt,

At the lowest market prices, by

PRICHARD.

GOTO F. & H. KEYES & CO., WHERE you can get Apples, Corn, Sugar, Fish, Trippe, Flour, Chocolate, Brooms, Blueberries, Apples, Sugar, Apples, and everything else at the very lowest prices.

Gents' Furnishing Goods.

A GOOD STOCK OF CLOTHING, COMprising: Frocks, Suits, and Business Coats, Pants and Tails, to Match, Boys' Coats and Dresses, Shirts and Drawers.

Medicines.

A GENERAL ASSORTMENT CONSTANTLY ON HAND. Also,

PATENT MEDICINES.

Oils and Dye Stuffs.

Prescriptions carefully put up. Physicians supplied at small advances from cost.

PRICHARD.

NEWGOODS! NEW GOODS!

AT THE

BRADFORD

VARIETY STORE.

LADIES' & GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS

Gloves, Hosiery, Nets, Hair Puffs, Combs, Laces and Paper Collars and Cuffs, Neck Ties, Scarfs, and Linen Handkerchiefs, Yankee Notions, Toys, Paper and Envelopes of every style and price, Hair Oil, Pomades, Perfumery, and Cook-ing extracts, &c.

Also, Fine Cut Tobacco, and Worcester's Hog yeast, WORSTEDS,

4 fold Zephyrs, for Breakfast Capes and Hoods Single and Solid Zephyrs, in all shades, Gents' Driving Gloves, Buck Gloves and Mittens.

Bliss' Excelsior Hair Restorer.

For 62 cts. per Bottle.

It is not a Dye!

will not injure or soil the skin in the slightest degree. It will in all cases restore Gray Hair to its original color. It is one of the best Hair Dressings, keeping the hair glossy and moist. Prepared by E. Bliss, Agent, Bradford, Vt. Sold wholesale and retail by

T. J. FLANDERS.

Also, the Hungarian Hair Dye.

Revenue Stamps.

In all denominations, at the Postoffice.

T. J. FLANDERS, Postmaster.

New Carriage Shop.